

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 409 as a one-time only measure. Because of an erroneous interpretation of the law, I believe it is appropriate to give school districts a one-year transition period to conform non-compliant practices for depositing funds into restricted maintenance accounts, consistent with the intent of current statutes. Nevertheless, I am concerned that school districts not delay any needed maintenance repairs to schools.

Although this bill will give school districts additional budget flexibility for the 2004-05 fiscal year, I expect districts to make all necessary repairs and maintenance to school facilities that both assure a suitable environment for learning and protection of the health and safety of students and staff on an ongoing basis.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger